



3 1761 07798676 8

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

Immigration of Russian Exiles.

Plans of Action of—

Independent Order B'nai B'reth.

Jewish Alliance of America.

Baron de Hirsch Trustees.

Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
GEO. R. GRAY, PRINTER.
1891.

IMMIGRATION OF EXPATRIATED RUSSIANS.

The publication of the recent official correspondence in reference to the question of admission of Russian refugees into the United States is necessary in consequence of numerous inquiries reaching us on the subject.

The act of Congress approved March 3, 1891, in its enacting clause, is as follows (we have italicized the sentences having reference to the special questions at issue):

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following classes of aliens shall be excluded from admission into the United States, in accordance with the existing acts regulating immigration, other than those concerning Chinese laborers: All idiots, insane persons, paupers or persons likely to become a public charge, persons suffering from a loathsome or a dangerous contagious disease, persons who have been convicted of a felony or other infamous crime or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, polygamists, and also any person whose ticket or passage is paid for with the money of another or who is assisted by others to come, unless it is affirmatively and satisfactorily shown on special inquiry that such person does not belong to one of the foregoing excluded classes, or to the class of contract laborers excluded by the act of February twenty-sixth, eighteen hundred and eighty-five, but this section shall not be held to exclude persons living in the United States from sending for a relative or friend who is not of the excluded classes under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe.

It will thus be seen that when expatriated Russian refugees seek asylum in this country if there is any risk of their being likely to become a public charge they must be excluded from admission into the United States. The law is mandatory in this respect.

The Treasury Department has issued a circular prescribing form of bond to be given for admission of immigrants, the condition being that said immigrants, if admitted, shall

not become a public charge for support, for a period of five years from the date of the undertaking, upon any State of the United States, its Territories, or the District of Columbia, or upon any city, town, township, county, or other municipality therein.

This regulation is in compliance with the clause of the law requiring it to be satisfactorily shown on special inquiry that the immigrant does not belong to the excluded class, viz., likely to become a public charge.

It will be seen that we have shown that the expatriated Russians, for reasons set forth, should not be classed as paupers.

The issue thus to be met is, that constant efforts must be made that none of those admitted, with or without bonds, shall constitute a dependent class at any future time, for it will be practically an evasion of the spirit of the law to allow them constantly to rely, even upon private eleemosynary institutions for maintenance and support.

With the most philanthropical objects in view it is obvious, as the Secretary of the Treasury remarks in his reply, the support of great numbers of dependent persons is a tax upon the resources of the country, even though paid from private funds.

The other suggestion, touching possible interference with the industrial conditions of the country, should receive most careful consideration, and every effort made to avoid and avert any such complication. To meet the emergency there is no remedy other than such as formulated in the plans of action fully set forth in the papers hereunto appended. It behooves all concerned, in every part of the Union, to strengthen the bonds of the organizations engaged in avoiding anything resembling pales of settlement. The law of must be obeyed, and neither by affirmative or negative action must any abnormal, dependent, or delinquent class be engrafted on the body politic, nor any element be introduced into the social organism tending to impair, impede, or interfere with the settled policy of our country, God bless it!

To the Honorable Secretary of the Treasury.

SIR: Attention having been called to the question of immigration of Russian Hebrews to the United States, the undersigned in furtherance of promises made to Hon. A. B. Nettleton, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, beg respectfully to invite attention to the propositions hereinafter set forth.

We address you in behalf of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, who have placed the subject and cognate matters specially under our charge.

In pursuance of duties devolved on us we have been instructed to memorialize our Government to use its best efforts, compatible with public interest, to arrest the further deportation of the exiles alluded to, from their native country, and we are assured officially that all proper steps have been taken in this direction.

At the late meeting of the organization in whose behalf this communication is made, resolutions were passed asking the friendly interposition of the President of the United States, which will in due course be presented through the Department of State.

It is fervently expected that at an early day, by friendly representation of our Government, immigration of Russian Hebrews will assume its normal condition and be reduced to a minimum.

This branch of our duty will be faithfully attended to through appropriate channels, and any information thereto appertaining cheerfully communicated to your office.

In meantime we beg to assure you that no organization exists in the United States that in any way directly or indirectly aids, assists, or encourages introduction into this country of the class of people herein alluded to; on the contrary, their arrival is deplored.

All that is done by associations, is that, when they have landed, strenuous efforts shall be made to prevent their becoming burthens on the body politic.

In furtherance of the purpose of preventing influx of the refugees, while relying on the success of our Government to cause the Russian persecutions to cease, which, by removing the cause, will prevent the baleful effect that arouses natural apprehensions, we beg to assure the Honorable Secretary that we shall address kindred associations in Europe, advising them that assisted emigration to the United States is against the laws of the country.

The immigrants alluded to cannot certainly be designated as of either of the classes prohibited from landing in the United States under the law of Congress, amended March 3, 1891.

The only apparently reasonable ground of apprehension is lest they may become inimical under classification No. 3, of Department Circular No. 86, 1891, Miscellaneous Division, viz: "Paupers or persons likely to become public charges." It is true that many of the immigrants alluded to arrive devoid of material wealth, but they can in no sense be classed as "indigent persons dependent on the commonwealth for support," which is the real definition of a pauper.

All of these people are instantly taken charge of by their brethren, are forthwith provided with means to acquire a livelihood, and are immediately educated and instructed in the duties incumbent henceforth on them as American citizens.

This is done without asking any subvention from National or State revenues. Numerous associations throughout the United States are actively engaged in promoting this work, and it is unhesitatingly stated that there is no danger of any of the immigrants in question becoming at any time public charges.

It is not possible to present in detail measures adopted by various associations to care and provide for those cast adrift on our shores.

The consensus of opinion is set forth in the report made

by the undersigned at the Baltimore meeting, on July 7 (an extract of which is hereunto annexed, Appendix "A"), which was unanimously adopted by delegates from every section of the country.

Among the leading organizations that have decided to take steps for education of the refugees and placing them in positions where there will be no risk of their becoming elements of a dependent class, the following may, for the present, be noted :

1. The Order of B'nai B'reth, which has numerous branches in every State of the Union. Its plan of action is set forth in the communication hereto appended, Exhibit "B," July 14, 1891.

2. The Jewish Alliance of America, with its headquarters in Philadelphia, having co-operating committees in various localities. What it proposes to do will be found in its circular now being promulgated, copy of which is annexed hereto, Exhibit "C."

3. The Baron de Hirsch Association, with headquarters at New York, having a capital sum at disposal, which is used, not for alms-giving, but solely for the purpose of uplifting these exiles and teaching them to become self-dependent. This association is ready to use the funds at its command to aid auxilliary societies in the manner set forth in the correspondence found in Exhibit "B."

4. Equally meritorious institutions, having the same objects in view, have been established in Cincinnati, Baltimore, Chicago, St. Louis, and notably in San Francisco, the aims and intentions of each being similar.

We are thus able to assure you that, so far as human foresight can reach, there will be no reasonable grounds to apprehend that any of the persons referred to will be "likely to become a public charge."

In addition to these assurances, the associations will be at all times ready to execute bonds, such as required by Circular No. 52, Treasury Department, dated June 4, 1839.

In fact, we are advised that a general bond to this effect has already been executed and delivered by one of the Vice-Presidents of the Jewish Alliance of America residing in New York city.

That the refugees are generally in distress is not denied. Circumstances, neither of their own dereliction nor choice, have placed them in a situation that is recognized throughout the civilized world, resulting from the greatest crime of the so-called enlightened century. This distress their brethren are untiringly striving to alleviate.

To close the avenues of this free and liberty-loving country, that has always opened its gates to the down-trodden and unjustly persecuted, would be against the underlying genius and theory of our glorious and beloved Constitution.

Neither the letter nor spirit of the laws of our country require us to "close the gates of mercy on mankind."

Recent statutes require that obnoxious immigrants shall be returned to their own country. This class of unfortunate exiles would be sent to "terra incognita," for they have been ruthlessly expatriated from the land of their birth, and to deny them a resting-place on God's footstool, because temporarily devoid of material wealth, would be endorsement of cruelty and encouragement to its continuance.

It is apposite to mention that about ten years since, in consequence of enforcement of the cruel edicts recently being again carried out, a very large number of Russian Hebrews sought this land of liberty as a haven of rest. They have been assimilated in the mass of citizenship, and, so far as can be ascertained, not a single one has become a public burthen.

To refuse asylum to such people by reason of misfortune would give the right to deny rescue of a shipwrecked crew cast on our shores by dire disaster. No law, human or divine, requires such technical interpretation.

The Russian Hebrews are wrecked on their voyage of life; cast out on tempestuous oceans by inhuman machinations. National and international law should not interfere when

humanity throws them life-preservers to save them from being engulfed by the waves, even of a sea of despair.

The enacting clause of the act of Congress approved March 3, 1891, excludes from admission into the United States * * * "any person whose ticket or passage is paid for with the money of another or who is assisted by others to come, unless it is affirmatively and satisfactorily shown on special inquiry that such person does not belong to one of the foregoing classes." * * *

We respectfully submit that it is a notorious fact that the persons alluded to, if even they may have had their passage paid for with the money of others, cannot be designated as "paupers or persons likely to become a public charge," and, therefore, come under the exceptional clause of the law, *i. e.*, that "It is affirmatively and satisfactorily shown on special inquiry that such persons do not belong to one of the foregoing excluded classes."

In making this communication we desire distinctly to be understood as making no complaint of, or criticism on, the action of officials in charge of this branch of the laws of our country.

In no sense has there been any oppressive or unjust ruling and we have every confidence that the broad and humane views heretofore voluntarily taken by the Department will continue to be exercised.

Acknowledgements are cheerfully made that no harsh measures have been taken in carrying out the acts of Congress.

In pursuance of the foregoing we with confidence respectfully submit that the statutes of the United States should not be interpreted so as to class the enforced exiles as paupers or assisted emigrants, when hands of help and welcome are outstretched to elevate them to the exalted position of American citizenship, without demanding any contribution from National or local taxes.

Very respectfully,

SIMON WOLF, *Chairman.*

LEWIS ABRAHAM, *Secretary.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., *July 27, 1891.*

[Copy.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
WASHINGTON, D. C., August 1, 1891.

SIMON WOLF, *Chairman*,
LEWIS ABRAHAM, *Secretary*,
of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

GENTLEMEN: I beg to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 27th ultimo, with its enclosures as stated.

You call attention to the bitter hardships suffered by many thousands of Hebrews by reason of their forcible expulsion from their homes in the Russian Empire, and you state among other things that there is no organization in the United States which assists or encourages destitute Hebrew refugees to come to this country; that you deplore this form of immigration; that the efforts of the several Hebrew societies represented by you are confined to ameliorating the condition of these unhappy people after their arrival at American ports by relieving those in distress and aiding all to avoid massing in the seaboard cities and to distribute themselves to widely separated localities where they may as soon as possible become self-sustaining. You state that you have no complaint to make in connection with the official treatment of refugees who have already arrived, and that you do not apprehend any future cause for complaint in this regard; but you urge the consideration that practically enforced immigration of this nature cannot properly be classed a "assisted" immigration within the meaning of our laws, and finally you declare the readiness of the people and associations for whom you speak to give to the Government in all cases a satisfactory bond guaranteeing that none of these refugee immigrants shall become a public charge.

Be assured, gentlemen, that I fully concur in your estimate of the magnitude of the present calamity which has befallen so many of your race, as well as in your hope that an early mitigation or cessation of the current measures of expulsion may render unnecessary any general migration of Russian

Hebrews to America or elsewhere. Unquestionably a great or sudden influx of expatriated and destitute aliens of any race would be a grave misfortune to any country, and American Hebrews act both patriotically and humanely when they advise Jewish refugees against coming hither, but at the same time endeavor to render self-supporting those who finally come. Obviously the support of great numbers of dependent persons is a tax upon the resources of the country, even though paid from private funds, and, quite as plainly, industrial conditions here might be seriously disturbed by the sudden arrival and the enforced competition of a multitude of needy people. Hence it is important to the last degree that the volume of this expected refugee immigration be not excessive or threatening, and that with entire certainty it be promptly and widely distributed, so as to supply a real want in scattered communities, and interfere as little as possible with existing and normal industrial conditions. The apparent scope and thoroughness of your plans for securing this immediate and wide distribution of the expected refugees are most gratifying, and upon the success of your associations in carrying out these plans will largely depend the possibility of the Government meeting your views in other respects.

While the immigration laws of the United States must, and will, be enforced, I agree with you that those laws were never enacted in derogation of the plainest requirements of humanity, and no worthy immigrant, who, in all other respects, meets the demands of our statutes, should be excluded from the country because, through the action of others, he is for the time being homeless and without property.

I shall rely upon your voluntary assurance that you will actively urge upon your brethren in Europe the attitude of our laws toward assisted immigration. I also beg to remind you that any tendency abroad to deflect toward this country the movement of destitute refugees, or to stimulate their migration hither, would be distinctly hostile to the spirit manifested in your letter and to the spirit in which the Gov-

ernment of the United States desires to treat this difficult and delicate problem.

Thanking you for your expressions of confidence that this Department, while executing the immigration laws efficiently, will also execute them humanely, I am,

Respectfully yours,

(Signed)

CHARLES FOSTER,
Secretary.

EXHIBIT A.

Extract from Report Adopted at Baltimore Convention.

“The crime of the century is patent before the world, and it is admitted that it is difficult to grapple with by ordinary means. It is our duty, as far as in our power, to use every effort to frustrate its baleful influences. We are confronted in this country with a difficult problem. There has been introduced into the United States a motley number of immigrants, unskilled in the habits and practices of Americanism. By unscrupulous oppression, they are primarily unfit and unable to assimilate with our population. They awake on this free land as from a lengthy lethargy. If we can not prevent the cause that placed many of them in the lower strata of society, we can lift them from the slough of despair. Education, moral and religious, and instruction in manual labor, will tend to elevate them. To encourage, or to permit, any of them to constitute a permanent dependent class would not be only unkind, unwise, but dangerous. They must be taught self-help, self-reliance, and must be fully instructed that no encouragement or permission will be granted to follow in this country those questionable practices which they found absolutely necessary in the land of their birth in order to protect their lives and the purity of their families.

Colonization of large bodies of these immigrants in special localities is of questionable merit. Many should be removed from the large centers of population and be merged into the

homogeneous mass of our population. Every one should be taught the vernacular, the truisms, and merits of the Constitution and fundamental laws of our country, and obedience thereto. This is no easy task, for it will be difficult to convince them that they can here become free agents. No delinquent element can be countenanced. Dole of alms may temporarily alleviate, but will provide no permanent remedy."

Said report contained also the following :

"Many, even of our people, shrink from the duty of the hour, asserting that the task is too difficult, and some look upon the problem with alarm, and alas, with indifference. To such be it known that their status is at stake. If there should grow up in our midst a class of people not imbued with American ideas who, for want of guidance and through ignorance, adhere to customs and practices abnormal and objectionable to our fellow-citizens, all of us will suffer, prejudice and ill judgment will hold us responsible for evils of which we none may be guilty. Apart from all sentiment, the question is largely one of self-preservation.

Far be it from your committee to assert that all are cold or indifferent ; but that many are not sufficiently active, and liberal with their means, cannot be disputed. To repeat, let them reflect that their own self-preservation, in the common community, demands constant action and unstinted aid. It is highly improper that the herculean work and expense of uplifting the down-trodden who seek the United States as a haven should be imposed solely on a few. Sympathy and fraternal feeling, it is true, is universal, but such alone will not be effectual.

The Hebrew people of the United States have other motives that should and must impel them. Patriotism ! Gratitude !

Most of them, not to the manor born, commenced labor under difficult circumstances ; under the benign influence and guardianship of our laws many have mounted the top-most rung of the ladder, are prosperous and happy, and

justly respected. Let such look backward ; where would they have been had they remained under old influences ?

Many prominent and honored in various positions of society came to this country empty-handed, and had it not been for opportunities afforded them would never have attained their present standing. Let them reflect how important it is that they be not affected by extraneous circumstances that can be controlled by judicious action. It is axiomatic that the ignorant and prejudiced are too apt to class the guiltless with the guilty."

EXHIBIT B.

INDEPENDENT ORDER B'NAI B'RETH.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

NEW YORK, *July*, 1891.

To the Commissioners for Aiding Refugees:

DEAR SIRS AND BRETHREN: The General Convention of the Order, which convened in June, 1890, at the city of Richmond, in the matter of aiding the Russian and other refugees passed the following resolution :

"*Resolved*, That the Constitution Grand Lodge appoint a Commission, consisting of one member from each District, who shall have the power to select such aids or assistants as he may deem necessary or proper, and whose duty it shall be to enforce such instructions as the Executive Committee may from time to time direct for the purpose of assimilating this foreign element to our American civilization ; of educating them and of helping them to self-support and independence."

This resolution was unanimously adopted, and a Commission appointed, which is to act in a co-operative sense with the Trustees of the "Baron de Hirsch Fund" or other organizations having kindred objects in view. The resolution intended that our Order should form one of the great

agencies in Americanizing the unfortunate victims of fanaticism and persecution who are driven to our shores in such large numbers. The Executive Committee communicated immediately after the close of the Convention with the Trustees of the "Baron de Hirsch Fund," offering the services and co-operation of the Order. The Trustees of that benevolent agency had not, however, reached such a condition as to state definitely what they could or could not do, but the time has now arrived, as the following letter will show :

NEW YORK, *June 18, 1891.*

MR. JULIUS BIEN,

President Executive Committee, I. O. B. B.

DEAR SIR: It becomes our duty to communicate with you upon a subject concerning which we have heretofore corresponded.

The persecution of the Jews in Russia has attained such a point that expatriation seems to be their only safety. Large numbers of them are fleeing Westward, and with or without help from organized committees in Europe, many will reach these shores who will require the assistance of American Israelites.

While the Baron de Hirsch Fund has since its inception aided emigrants who have arrived in this city, Philadelphia, and Baltimore in obtaining for them means of support by teaching them trades and sending them to places where work has been found for them, or, in other words, assisting them to become self-reliant—those reaching here, and naturally to be expected under the present conditions, far exceed the ability of even the Baron's munificent foundation to meet the emergency—it becomes imperative that American Israelites organized in Orders, Congregations, and Societies and others ready to respond should unite in their several localities and their organized capacities for the betterment of these unhappy exiles, in order that they may become self-supporting and attain the position of good citizenship.

Having this in view, an Order so thoroughly organized as yours can be a potent factor in solving this great problem. We, therefore, take the liberty to suggest that you adopt such means as you deem best, co-operating therein with such other organizations as you may select, for the formation of committees in every city and town in which a lodge or other organized body of Israelites exists, which shall assume the labor of finding employment for such emigrants as they can provide for.

We desire to inform you that in the event of the formation of such committees, this Fund is prepared to co-operate to the extent of furnishing transportation for emigrants to their several destinations.

We are very solicitous that in the present extraordinary emergency there shall not be a repetition of the unfortunate incidents that attended the distribution of the refugees in 1882.

We have to add that any assistance that our Trustees can afford you in the performance of this imperative duty will be promptly rendered, and avail ourselves of this opportunity to thank your Order for initiating this important measure of relief, and we have no doubt that with your usual energy you will push forward the work herein defined with all possible expedition.

We have the honor to be, truly yours,

M. S. ISAACS, *President.*

JULIUS GOLDMAN, *Hon. Sec'y.*

A. S. SOLOMONS, *Gen. Agent.*

All our coreligionists, not to speak of all men and women who have a heart for the unfortunate, must strain every nerve to aid in the distribution of these refugees of persecution. They are arriving in vast numbers, and to procure for them opportunities for earning their living is one of the most momentous questions ever presented to our people, not only since the organization of our Order, but since the United States

became a Government. The Israelites all over the country must co-operate in the task if we are to avert an overwhelming calamity. There are unquestionably opportunities for work in the South and far West, in the Eastern and Middle States. Our bretheren can do much to place single men as well as families in positions of usefulness. The Jew, as is well-known, is very willing to work; but a stranger who comes here, not capable of speaking English, is helpless unless taken by the hand, encouraged, assisted, sympathized with, and made to feel that he is among those who mean well and who have a humane disposition for him. We are requested to undertake a portion of this work, not only by the duties imposed upon us by our religion and as citizens of the United States, having an interest in the perpetuity of the institutions under which we are all made happy; but also self-protection demands that we take measures in time before the feeling of anti-Semitism caused by the large influx of this foreign element will grow to such an extent as to overwhelm the entire Jewish community.

The Order of the B'nai B'reth, by its principles of benevolence and brotherly love, which are by no means confined to their own immediate brethren, but are the birthright, as they should be the glory, of every human being, enjoins us to exert all our strength in this hour of need. The Trustees of the Baron de Hirsch Fund will aid us to the extent of furnishing transportation for all who may find situations and places in any part of this country; and no doubt if small colonies could be formed near centers where they could be cared for, the Trustees would, later on, aid us in this direction.

Our Commissioners are therefore directed, and urgently requested, in accordance with their duties, to place themselves in immediate communication with their Grand Lodges and Lodges in their respective Districts, and with other existing organizations in their locality, having similar objects in view, in order to select such assistants and take such steps as will serve for the purpose of finding positions where

work is required, and where workmen can be *placed*. It is well known that in many country places there is a dearth of laborers, and where able-bodied men and women willing to work are ever welcome. Not charity of money is needed, but charity of heart. Personal exertion is required; self-sacrifice and devotion to a duty incumbent upon us as American citizens, not to speak of the fact that we are American Israelities.

It is a time of absolute war, and our brethren throughout the country must enlist each and every one to render service in this holy cause. Yes, we are in the midst of a war, a war not where armed forces contend on the battlefield, but a war of violence, of prejudice, of persecution unparalleled in the history of mankind, far exceeding in its intensity the expulsion of our brethren from Spain. Organized as we are, distributed all over the country, well trained in the labors of love and humanity, it cannot be doubted that our brethren will come to the rescue with that alacrity which has ever been our distinctive character.

Commissioners! proceed at once to organize, and inform the Executive Committee of your progress, of your practical work, of your wants. In the name of the Order, in the name of our common humanity, in the name of the God of Mercy and Compassion, in the name of that broad citizenship of the United States which aims to better the condition of every man, we appeal to you to make every exertion as speedily as possible, so as to bring relief to the multitude who are but waiting for an opportunity to earn their living by the sweat of their brow, under a sky balmy with the air of liberty, under a Government that gives protection to the weak, the helpless, and oppressed, and in the midst of a people who only demand righteous conduct on the part of the citizens to accord to them the rights of men.

With fraternal greeting,

JULIUS BIEN, *President*.

SIMON WOLF, *Vice-Pres.*

SOL. SULZBERGER, *Hon. Sec.*

[L. S.]

EXHIBIT C.

**PLAN OF ACTION BY THE JEWISH ALLIANCE OF
AMERICA WITH REGARD TO RUSSIAN-JEWISH IM-
MIGRATION.**

It may be stated beyond question that if the annual influx of the many thousands of immigrants could by some effective system be quickly distributed through the vast interior of the Union they would prove a desirable acquisition to the respective localities in which they settle and also speedily better their own condition.

A careful analysis of the whole subject of immigration, as elucidated by both American and European economists, has shown that each new comer positively adds a more or less definite amount to the wealth of the community, and, hence, no intelligent person can regard the coming of these immigrants otherwise than with satisfaction. Not merely money, but brain and muscle are essential for the building up of a community, and, although few of the victims of Russia's monstrous tyranny succeed in passing her frontiers without being robbed of practically all their property, yet their stout hearts and willing hands are sufficient capital to warrant them a welcome in this country. They are prepared to do all kinds of work, and experience, wherever they have been established, proves that they make good factory hands, tailors, seamstresses, carpenters, &c.

It is, however, manifest that the assimilation of these immigrants is retarded through their concentration in the larger communities and particularly in the seaboard cities. If some outlet into the more thinly-settled interior districts could be opened, if some system could be devised by which the numerous places throughout the country, particularly in the Southern and Western States, which are soliciting new settlers, could have their demands supplied from the overcrowded cities, then a great desideratum would be accomplished and the most beneficent results obtained. The material condition of the new comers would be benefited, their

introduction into varied branches of industry would be simplified, their education in the rights and duties of American citizenship would be facilitated, and their complete assimilation into our American commonalty would follow as of course. To compass such ends for the refugees from Russian barbarism the Jewish Alliance of America has been organized, and the movement has now become sufficiently extended to permit practical work in this direction being undertaken.

United efforts by Jews in all quarters of the Union will be potent in doing what is required. Wherever Jews dwell they can assist in placing a few of the new comers. Their wants are not unreasonable; all they need is chance to work in order to earn a livelihood. A little interest displayed in their cause by those who are better off will solve the question. It has always been the custom of Jews to allow no man to go unrelieved, and it is now especially a duty to apply this principle to these afflicted refugees. Let every member of the community give a little time and effort to guide them where they can settle and make a living, and it will be found that in one place a few families may be provided for, in another place opportunities can be given to still more, and so on. If Jews at all places where they are settled will look through their neighborhood for the purpose they will be able to furnish the Alliance with enough information to enable us to direct the immigrants where they should go. Pecuniary help will come from the members of the Alliance, from the Baron de Hirsch Trust, and from the liberality of our community.

The immediate purpose to be kept in view is the settlement of small Jewish communities in the towns and villages of the interior throughout the country. It is manifest that if two or three families could be settled anywhere under self-supporting conditions they would soon become the nucleus of further growth through the accession of relatives and friends, for whom the first comers would have made more or less adequate provision. Such has been the history of many well-established communities of Jews in the smaller towns of the country, and the process by which these have be-

come settled can be repeated to any reasonable extent throughout the Union. Everyone who has witnessed the process of establishment in this country of the German-Jewish immigrants who came in such considerable numbers during the past two or three decades and whose influx has, within a comparatively recent period, totally ceased through the amelioration of their condition at home, will have observed how many thriving communities have grown up out of the settlement of one or two families in a locality. The only reason why the present immigrants cannot well be left to their own devices, as were their predecessors, is that the immigration of the latter was a normal process, while that of the Russian-Jews is abnormal, through their forced expatriation and consequent poverty and helplessness.

With these facts in view, it is now proposed that the establishment of small Jewish communities be furthered by the Jewish Alliance through the medium of its branch organizations. A sketch of the plan in general may be stated as follows.

The entire country shall be divided into districts whose boundaries and number may be varied from time to time as occasion may prove to be expedient.

Each district shall be directly controlled by the branch organization in the principal city of the district, all other branches in the same district to co-operate under the direction of the principal branch. All measures of general policy are to remain subject to the revision and control of the Central Executive Committee of the Alliance.

The board of officers of each of the branches of the Alliance shall appoint a number of their members whose duty it shall be to find location where one or more families may be settled under circumstances affording them a reasonable subsistence. The officers of the local branch shall endeavor to locate in the places thus determined such persons or families as have applied to them for the purpose, and in the absence of such applicants they shall report the occasion to the Central Executive Committee, who shall thereupon take such action as may best promote the end in view.

If the local board of officers find it expedient to further this work through one or more paid agents, they shall communicate that fact to the Central Executive Committee, together with the name or names of such persons as they shall deem competent for the position.

The local agent shall be paid a regular monthly salary, to be determined by the Central Executive Committee, by and with the advice of the local board, which salary shall be paid from the general treasury of the Alliance, upon orders from the President and Secretary of the local branch, countersigned by the President and Secretary of the Central Committee.

For the furtherance of the general plan of local establishments, the new settlers may be aided by the local branch, through the officers and agents, with transportation, tools, or subsistence, as may be found expedient, the expenses of such aid to be paid out of the general treasury of the Alliance, upon authorization by the Central Executive Committee.

On the basis of this general plan, one great aim of the Alliance can be realized. The work can be carried forward to whatever extent, more or less, that the actual means of the organization may permit, and can be gradually expanded with the growth of membership and increasing income of the Alliance.

It is especially recommended that congregations, clubs, lodges, the various Jewish orders and other organizations, be urged by their members to take an interest in this matter. There is no cause which better deserves their attention, or by the furtherance of which so much good can follow.

This plan, which was originally projected by Mr. Louis E. Levy, has been approved by the Central Executive Committee, after incorporation of amendments proposed by Dr. Solomon Solis Cohen and Secretary Bernard Harris, together with a supplement by Mayer Sulzberger, Esq., a trustee of the Baron de Hirsch fund.

CENTRAL OFFICE,

632 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, Pa.



